Stainless steel produced by ASP in Durgapur

1102. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of stainless steel produced annually by the Alloy Steel Plant in Durgapur;

(b) the consumers of this products;

(c) whether the consumers send the product abroad for hot rolling and the hot rolled product is subsequently re-imported back by the consumer;

(d) if so, the advantages of such a circuitous route; and

(e) whether this is affecting the viability of the ASP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The production of stainless steel in the Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur was 5,589 tonnes during 1999-2000.

(b) The product of ASP is mainly consumed by the following :

(i) Salem Steel Plant and other units of SAIL

(ii) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) (iii)

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) (iv)

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

(c) While units of SAIL do not send the product abroad for hot rolling, ASP does not monitor usage by other consumers.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Production cost of Steel

† 1103. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 12 per cent expenditure of the production cost of steel is spent on the pay and allowances of employees and workers;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that production cost of steel in the country is more than the production cost of steel assessed at international level; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the production cost of steel in the country and at international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The production cost of steel and the pay and allowances of employees and workers vary from company to company depending upon die locational considerations, cost of various inputs and the pay scales and other benefits of the companies announced from time to time.

(c) No Sir.

(d) As per the Cost Monitor of World Steel Dynamics the cost of production of steel in some Steel Manufacturing Countries in the World is as follows :

Cost of Production 1998—Saleable Steel ($ / Tonne)

USA	502
UK	472
Germany	498
Japan	477
SAIL (98-99) 4 Plants	312

Losses in SAIL

† 1104. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many measures have been taken in the past years to minimize the losses of Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the sectors identified by management for making curtailments to minimise the production cost; and

(c) the details of percentage regarding production cost in each sector likely to be minimized by way of curtailment measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Measures taken/being taken to reduce production cost and to improve die performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) *inter-alia* include:

(i) Business and financial restructuring with a view to improve its functioning and enabling the company to concentrate on its core business aimed at increasing its competitiveness.

† Original notice of (he question was received in Hindi.